

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-20 and insert new claims 21-54.

1-20. **Canceled.**

21. **(New)** A low-profile control device for a computer, the control device comprising:

- a) a fixed mounting;
- b) transducer means for generating a vector output signal in response to x and y components of force transmitted thereto; and
- c) a control member acted upon in the x and y directions by at least two spaced-apart fingertips of a user and mounted for limited travel in the x and y directions on said fixed mounting, said control member being coupled to said transducer means for transmitting said components of force thereto.

22. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, wherein said control member has a substantially horizontal fingertip-engaging control surface.

23. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, wherein said control member has an upright fingertip-engaging control surface.

24. **(New)** The control device according to claim 23, wherein said control member has a height in the range 1 to 5 mm.

25. **(New)** The control device according to claim 23, wherein said control member is disposed in a well, said well having an upright inner surface and said control member having a peripheral outer surface facing said inner surface and spaced apart therefrom to define a gap between said inner surface and said peripheral outer surface.

26. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, further comprising a substantially horizontal wrist-rest surface.
27. **(New)** The control device according to claim 26, wherein said control member has an upper surface substantially flush with said wrist-rest surface.
28. **(New)** The control device according to claim 26, wherein said control member has an upper surface recessed with respect to said wrist-rest surface.
29. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, wherein said control member is substantially oval in plan view.
30. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, wherein said control member has a horizontal dimension of at least 10mm.
31. **(New)** The control device according to claim 30, wherein said dimension is at least 20mm.
32. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, comprising means for restricting travel of said control member in said plane to 50mm or less.
33. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, comprising means for restricting travel of said control member in said plane to 30mm or less.
34. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, comprising means for restricting travel of said control member in said plane to 10mm or less.
35. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, comprising means for substantially preventing movement of said control member in the x-y plane.

36. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, wherein said control member is mounted on a pivot mounting for enabling rotation of said control member in the x-y plane by said user.

37. **(New)** A keyboard incorporating a control device according to claim 21.

38. **(New)** A computer incorporating a control device according to claim 21, the computer having a display and cursor control circuitry for displaying a cursor on said display, an output of said control device being coupled to said cursor control circuitry for controlling the movement of said cursor.

39. **(New)** The computer according to claim 38 which is a laptop computer having a keyboard and a wrist-rest area disposed adjacent to said keyboard and wherein said control device is located in said wrist-rest area.

40. **(New)** A laptop computer having a wrist-rest surface and a pointing device located adjacent to said wrist-rest surface, said pointing device comprising:

- a) a fixed mounting below said wrist-rest surface;
- b) transducer means for generating a vector output signal in response to x and y components of force transmitted thereto; and
- c) a control member acted upon in the x and y directions by a least two spaced-apart fingertips of a user and mounted for limited travel in the x and y directions on said fixed mounting, said control member being coupled to said transducer means for transmitting said x and y components of force thereto.

41. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, which has at least one fingertip-operable switch means carried in a peripheral region of said control member for generating a switching signal distinct from said vector output signal.

42. **(New)** The control device according to claim 21, wherein said transducer means includes two transducers for sensing respective orthogonal x and y force components and generating vector output signal components.

43. **(New)** The laptop computer according to claim 40, wherein a recess is formed in said wrist-rest surface and said control member is disposed in said recess, said recess having an upright inner surface and said control member having a peripheral outer surface facing said inner surface and spaced apart therefrom to define a gap between said inner surface and said peripheral outer surface.

44. **(New)** The laptop computer according to claim 40, wherein at least one fingertip-operable switch means is coupled to said control member for generating a switching signal distinct from said vector output signal.

45. **(New)** The laptop computer according to claim 40, wherein said control member has a height in the range of 1 to 5 mm.

46. **(New)** A low-profile control device for a computer, the control device comprising:

- a) a fixed mounting;
- b) transducer means for generating a vector output signal in response to x and y components of force transmitted thereto; and
- c) a control member acted upon in the x and y directions by at least two spaced apart fingertips of a user and mounted on said fixed mounting for limited travel, imperceptible to the user in the x and y directions, said control member being coupled to said transducer means for transmitting said components of force thereto.

47. **(New)** The control device according to claim 46 wherein said control member is substantially oval in plan view.

48. **(New)** The control device according to claim 46 wherein said control member has a dimension in the x-y plane of at least 10 mm.
49. **(New)** The control device according to claim 46, further comprising a wrist-rest surface.
50. **(New)** A method of controlling the position of a cursor on a computer screen comprising the steps of:
- a) applying x and y components of force from at least two spaced-apart fingertips of a user to a control member of a low-profile control device for said computer, said control member being mounted for limited travel in the x and y directions on a fixed mounting;
 - b) transmitting said x and y components of force from said control member to transducer means coupled to said control member; and
 - c) generating a vector output signal from said transducer means for controlling the position of said cursor in response to said x and y components of force.
51. **(New)** A method according to claim 50, wherein said control member is mounted for travel in the x and y directions which is imperceptible to the user.
52. **(New)** The method according to claim 50, wherein said control member has a shallow edge that can be gripped and used in a way similar to the way fingers are used to push a desktop mouse.
53. **(New)** The method according to claim 50, wherein the fingertips rest on a surface of said control member in similar relative positions as when gripping a conventional computer mouse.
54. **(New)** The method according to claim 50, wherein the index finger and/or second finger of the user operate one or more buttons as with a desktop mouse.